

Pray for us that we may be used of the Master to extend his kingdom in this world.
E. L. HILDEBRAND.

Philadelphia, Pa.

We have received two into the Philadelphia church since our last report. Dr. Cline from Lebanon, Pa., by relation from the German Baptists and a young lady by baptism here in the city. Several others have confessed Christ and we expect them to be baptized soon.
I. D. BOWMAN.

From Falls City

It has been somewhat more than a month since our last, but now we have some items of special interest to report. The month of December we were busy in the preparation of our Christmas exercises which were rendered on Sunday morning, Dec. 24, and were greatly enjoyed by all. There was erected an arch over the pulpit, covered with evergreens and trimmed with Christmas tree ornaments, consisting generally of angels announcing the Savior's birth, with an appropriate scripture. The whole was surmounted by a miniature Christmas tree, the whole making a very pretty decoration and quite a surprise to the children. All were given a little treat of confections, fruit and nuts, and all had a good time. Our beloved superintendent, brother E. R. Mathers, was presented with a handsome chair, and your correspondent was very agreeably surprised to receive a gift of \$5. There was also presented to our very efficient organist, Miss Zola Jones, a very handsome ring. The whole affair under the very able management of our superintendent, was declared by all to be the best Christmas entertainment held in the town. A very commendable feature was the taking of a special collection for the poor which the school had been previously instructed, would be taken and it netted about —, which was immediately distributed among the poor of Falls City. But surprises did not end with the Christmas exercises. We received from our dear brother and sister E. A. Mast, a nice turkey and a set of fine linen napkins, and from brother and sister J. J. Horner a sack of flour. Neither does it stop here. The 28th of Dec. being my birthday, Mrs. Braker thought she would like to entertain some of our town members for supper, and with the assistance of Sister Mast, got up a very nice supper, at which there were present about 22 persons. In the evening we were having a very pleasant time in song and conversation when to my surprise Brother Mathers stepped forward and in a neat little speech, in which he said they realized that I had a cold drive on Sunday mornings to Silver Creek, and on their behalf presented me with a handsome carriage robe and a blanket for my horse. Neither is this all. Our S. S. C. E. had already planned a surprise on us for Saturday, Dec. 30, not knowing of my birthday arrangement, and strange to say, in making my rounds to carry the invitations to our own celebration, I met one of our sisters in a

certain home engaged in a similar occupation for the S. S. C. E., but it was all done so quietly that on the following Saturday we were taken by complete surprise when a large company trooped in bringing with them many of those things which minister good (iness) to the outer man. They also presented Mrs. Braker with a neat little silk bag filled with silver. To say that we are all deeply grateful for all this expression of love and esteem does not express our deeper feelings of joy and satisfaction. May God bless our dear people of Falls City. Now to return to the report of the work. It is moving along encouragingly, congregations steadily growing. For the last three Sunday evenings in town, we might say we had almost crowded houses. These have been busy days for me of late. I have today preached the third funeral in a week, the first one being held in the Methodist church here. I am also in the midst of a series of meetings at our Silver Creek church (no visible results as yet). We could not preach our missionary sermon and take our special collection for National Mission Board on the day set apart for it, on account of our Christmas exercises, but on the following Sunday we preached at both places, from the text, "Give ye them to eat." Luke 9:13. The Lord blest the Word and opened the hearts of our people and the result was a collection of about \$50, which I presume by this time has been sent to Brother Cassel. In this effort I was very ably seconded by brother Samuel Lichty. Our people have done well, and we heartily commend them. I am glad to say that there seems to be a new awakening in our K. C. society. We have recently raised our first installment of our proportion of the \$500 for Ashland college and foreign missions, voted by the National society at Winona. Our Sunday-school is doing well. We are regretting the loss (for a little while) of our brother and sister Samuel Kimmel, they, having taken a trip to California. We miss them very much as they were very faithful, and Brother Kimmel taught our adult Bible class. The Lord bless our beloved brotherhood.

J. ELWOOD BRAKER.

Roaring Springs, Pa.

Glancing into a pigeon hole in my secretary I spied a pack of envelopes. Taking them out I discovered they all bore the printed address, "Brethren Publication Board, Ashland, Ohio." This reminded me that they were sent to me for a purpose, and that purpose was an occasional jotting for the EVANGELIST. I respond briefly to say that spiritually we are moving along slowly, but I think surely. Interest is good, and occasionally responses to the spirit's convictions. A few evenings ago we received two by baptism into the church at McKees. In this church we have placed a fine baptistry, which is decidedly a convenience. Again this church has called us to its pastorate, making the sixteenth year in which we have been associated as people and pastor. I am certainly surprised at their patience and for-

bearance. The choir that now sings for me, and sings well too, were not all born when I preached my first sermon in this church. Others, little tots led by the hand of their mothers. So, they have grown up under my pastorate, and probably think I am the only preacher there is. At all events, without a single dissenting voice, they concluded to try me for another year, and if I behave properly, might possibly try me another year. I am warmly attached to this church. Fifteen years ago I preached the first "progressive" sermon among them, and had not a single member. Over one hundred have been enrolled since then. Some I baptized, married, and preached the funerals of their children. Around these associations cling some sacred memories. Our church in Altoona is doing nicely, congregations are good, with much interest manifested. Brother Koontz will hold a protracted service here, beginning on the 23rd of present month. We think the harvest is fairly ripe, and we pray that Brother Frank may gather in many sheaves. This church, too, seems to be easily satisfied, and unanimously called us for another year. Its spirituality is excellent and we see prosperity ahead, if we are faithful. Twice each month we preach for our brethren at Fredericksburg, or Clover Creek, where Brother Smith labored successfully for three years. Here we have Eld. S. B. Furry as our co-laborer and spiritual adviser. A model membership, tho not large numerically but intelligent and zealous. So we do not grow rusty but try to keep the sword brightened. And now, brother editor, permit me to congratulate you on the improvement in the make-up of the quarterlies. Our people compliment you highly, and you have raised our literature to a plane equal to any extent. Accept our grateful appreciation of your untiring efforts. Pray for our Altoona meeting.
W. L. SPANOGLE.

Roaring Springs, Pa.

West Independence, Ohio

If all the letters from our various churches are as thoroughly enjoyed and as eagerly searched for by others as the letters of Brother White, Shively and other old time friends are by our family, I am sure we should report the doings of our societies quite fully; in that they may be of unusual interest to those who in times past worked in our midst.

Miss Detwiler's letters are so inspiring and helpful—I felt very sad to read she would leave the S. S. C. E. work, but found in the Personal Mention column we should hear from her occasionally and was glad. Our society is resting at present, so many sisters living at a distance, some sickness, bad roads, etc.

The devotional exercises under its auspices every two weeks are enjoyed. Our Christmas entertainment was a success; each little child contributing to the program—many prefer to hear the "wee ones" tell us "all about Christmas."